

Big Cypress Tree

Sustainability Features

Natural Area

Big Cypress Tree is a 330-acre natural area in Weakley County. It is a bottomland hardwood and bald cypress forest that occurs along the old river meanders and the channelized Middle Fork of the Obion River. A bald cypress forest is present in the many sloughs and the depressional areas along the river. This forest is comprised of bald cypress, river birch, sweet gum, sycamore, overcup oak, water oak, willow oak, and cherrybark oak. The bottomland hardwood forest that occurs at higher locations includes green ash, swamp chestnut oak, red maple, and slippery elm with some white oak.

Also located at the park are planted gardens that include many trees, flowers and shrubs native to Tennessee. This garden is found alongside the hiking trails, further adding to the park's beauty and a big draw for hummingbirds and butterflies along the way. Plants of interest are tagged so visitors can easily identify them.

Events

Every September, the park hosts the Fall Festival where visitors enjoy several programs such as birds of prey, arts & crafts, storytelling, and plant and tree identification.

Did You Know?

The park is named for the national champion bald cypress tree that once lived on the park. The tree was the largest bald cypress in the U.S. and the largest tree of any species east of the Mississippi River. The tree's diameter was 13 feet and its circumference was 40 feet. The tree was 1,350 years old when lightning struck and destroyed it in 1976.

Park Highlights



- Visited by 25,000 people in 2011
- Located in Weakley County
- One tree identification trail 0.3 miles long is available to visitors. This educational and informative trail is marked with tree identification markers. It is dry all year, easy to walk and handicap assessable.

